

Applicant: Hunkeler
Application No.: 10/600,403

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-25 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 9 and 18 have been amended to define the scope of the present invention more particularly and distinctly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0085719 filed by Crosbie (hereinafter "Crosbie") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,128,490 to Shaheen et al. (hereinafter "Shaheen").

With respect to claim 1, claim 1 as presently amended recites means for broadcasting handover information for handing a WTRU over from a WLAN to an alternative wireless communication system, the handover information including cell information necessary for establishing a wireless connection, whereby the WTRU directly establishes a wireless connection to the selected wireless communication systems utilizing the cell information received from the WLAN without performing an additional search for obtaining the cell information from the selected wireless communication system.

In contrast, Shaheen discloses a system for selecting preferred operation from available options, including multiple frequencies, channels, and protocols, not a system for handover from a WLAN to alternative wireless communication system. In Shaheen, base stations of two or more networks operating in accordance with different protocols broadcast messages to inform a subscriber unit of the capabilities of the networks. The subscriber unit receives the messages and makes an

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operational decision to select a preferred system from available options. Shaheen discloses as follows:

... the system may provide broadcast messages on each commonly owned system that notifies subscribing units within the area of the existence and operating parameters of each of the overlying systems. ... upon receipt of the broadcast information, a subscribing unit will determine a preferred system of the overlying systems and initiate operation with the preferred system. (See column 4 lines 23-32).

... base stations ... of the first network ... cause the first network components to broadcast at least one first network broadcast message. ... base stations ... of the second network ... cause the second network components to broadcast at least one second network broadcast message. ... either of the broadcast messages could also inform the subscribing units ... of the capabilities of the other network ... Based upon the information then, the subscribing units ... select operation from the available options provided. (See column 6 line 57 - column 7 line 7).

... the subscribing unit 103 initiates operation within a cell ... Upon such initiation, the subscribing unit 103 scans for a broadcast message ... If the SU 116 determines that sufficient information has been received in the broadcast message at step 314, the SU 116 selects the frequency band of operation, channel of operation and communication protocol to be employed. (See column 8 line 62 - column 9 line 20).

Shaheen fails to disclose a scheme of handing WTRUs over to an alternative wireless communication system utilizing information obtained from the WLAN without performing an additional search to obtain the cell information. Instead, Shaheen merely discloses a scheme of selecting preferred operations from available options. In Shaheen, base stations broadcast information including frequency band information, channel information, protocol information, and optionally preference information, whereby a subscribing unit determines in which frequency, on which channel and according to which protocol the subscribing unit may achieve a desired

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bandwidth. Therefore, claim 1 is clearly distinguishable from Shaheen, and is allowable over Crosbie in view of Shaheen.

With respect to claims 9 and 18, claims 9 and 18 as presently amended recite broadcasting handover information including cell information necessary for establishing a wireless connection to alternative wireless communication systems; and establishing a connection to a selected system using the cell information received from the WLAN without performing additional search for obtaining the cell information from the selected system. As argued with respect to claim 1, Shaheen fails to disclose a scheme of handing WTRUs over to an alternative system utilizing information obtained from the WLAN without performing additional search to obtain the cell information. Therefore, claims 9 and 18 are also clearly distinguishable from Shaheen, and are allowable over Crosbie in view of Shaheen.

With respect to claims 2-8, 10-17 and 19-25, these claims are dependent upon claims 1, 9 and 18, respectfully. Therefore, it is believed that these claims are also allowable over the cited prior art of record for the same reason provided above.

Based on the arguments presented above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-25 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Hunkeler

By


John C. Donch Jr.

Registration No. 43,593

(215) 568-6400

Volpe and Koenig, P.C.
United Plaza, Suite 1600
30 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-6400
Facsimile: (215) 568-6499

JCD